

After watching the effect of log export on the wood products mills in Oregon and Washington, we are sure we don't want that to happen to us in Alaska. The Alaska Loggers Association has opposed round log export from Alaska for many years. We will continue to oppose it.

Regarding the Treasury staff recommendation on access roads, we feel more access roads would be a help to enlarge the allowable cut for the Tongass National Forest.

The balloon logging is certainly still in the experimental stage. In 1962 we became interested in the Wyssen skyline system of logging. The Alaska Lumber & Pulp Co., in hopes of logging some of the inaccessible timber, entered into an agreement with Clear Creek Logging Co. that they would purchase this equipment if we would operate it. Cost of this experimental equipment was about \$55,000.

We have used the Wyssen skyline logging system for the past 4 years. This system will reach logs as far as 5,000 feet from our roads. We think there is some hope this kind of logging system could reach some of the inaccessible timber, but up to date the cost of operating this kind of logging show hasn't been very good. We hope to improve and have made plans for the coming logging season. We would like to use helicopters to transport the crews on these long steep slopes. Of course, the cost at this time is prohibitive.

In our group from Alaska there are some very knowledgeable people in all phases of the wood products industry from Alaska so anyone having a question can very likely get someone of this group to answer it.

That is about all I have, so thank you for letting me testify.

I do have one comment. I don't have any cost sheets with me or anything like that, but there seems to be quite a lot of interest in the difference in the cost of logging in Alaska than in Oregon. If you would care to have me comment on that a little bit without any profit and loss sheets here, why, I might make a small comment.

Senator MORSE. I think we ought to have it.

Mr. SODERBERG. Well, in northern California we logged approximately 150 million feet of timber for private land and timber owners, and we did approximately the same job that we are doing in Alaska, and I would say that the difference in doing very nearly the same kind of work would be roughly around \$15 to \$20 a thousand. So there is quite a substantial difference in logging in Alaska than there is in Oregon, Washington, or California.

Roadbuilding is at least twice as high. You can just figure all phases of your labor are at least 25 percent higher than in Oregon, Washington, or California. All of your supplies, in fact everything needed for logging, costs more. For example, it might cost you \$30 just to get a radio call through the Alaska Communications System to get one part, and these things all add up, and along those lines I would say even with the modest rate of stumpage for Alaska that if you will check this out, you are going to find that when those logs reach the mill, they are still pretty expensive logs.

Senator MORSE. I think you have made a terrific case and I am very glad to have your testimony.

Now I want to talk to you a moment about your schedule. I have just been advised that you are not the only one that has to leave tonight. How many in this delegation have to leave Washington tonight?